

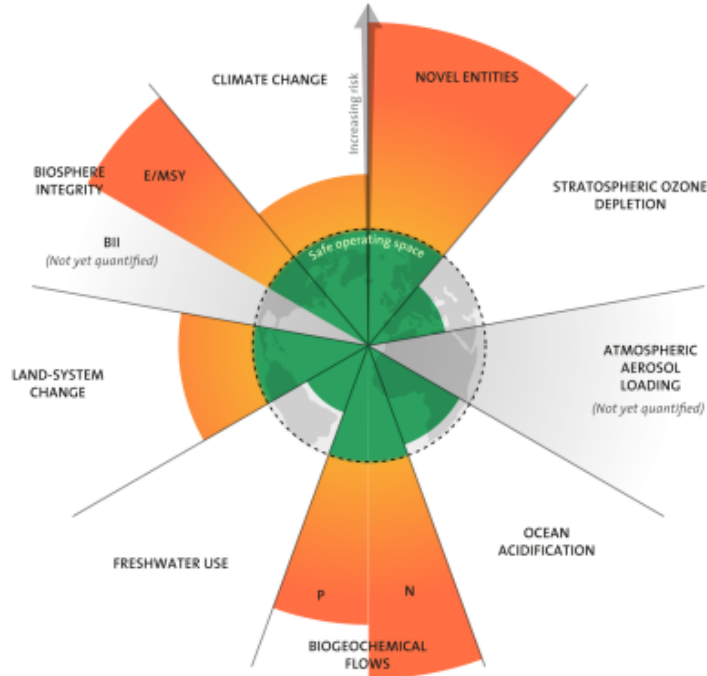
The perspective of young farmers on circular agriculture

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With: Hannah Geerse, Evelien de Olde, Tom Schut, Martin van Ittersum, Katrien Termeer, Imke de Boer



Background

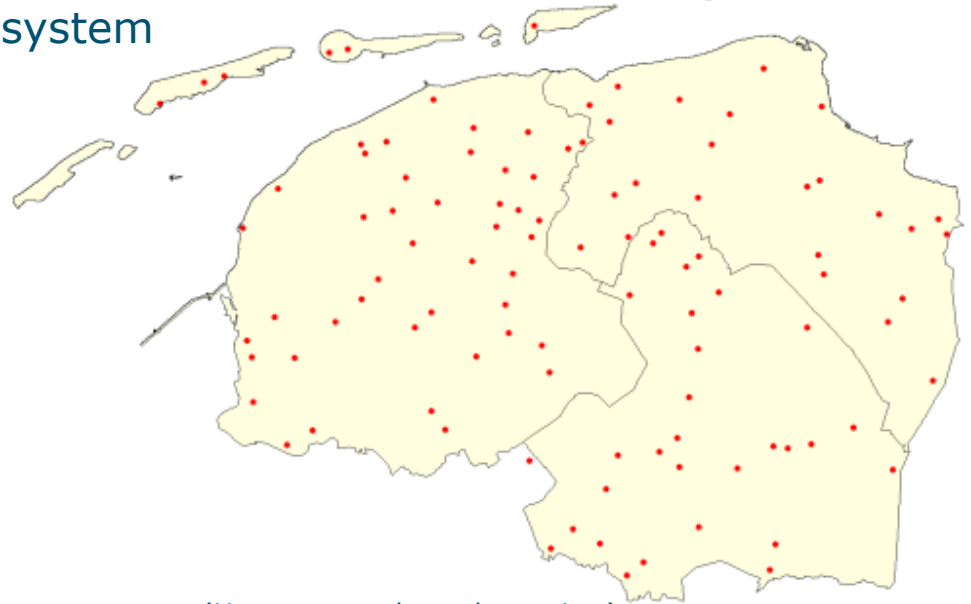
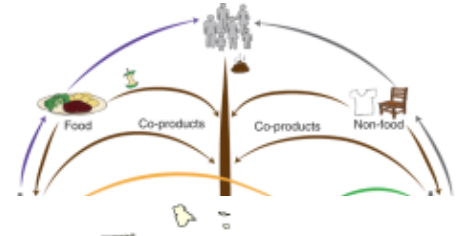


(Persson et al 2022 and Steffen et al 2015)

- Agriculture needs to produce within the planetary boundaries
- In the Netherlands:
 - Nitrogen crisis
 - Socio-economic pressure to change agriculture

Background

- Circular agriculture to improve sustainability
- Circular agricultural in the Netherlands by 2030
- Requires a transition of the food system
- Resulted in many initiatives
- Key role for (young) farmers



(Hoogstra et al., under review)

Background

- Farm successor rate is relatively low
- Farmers protests



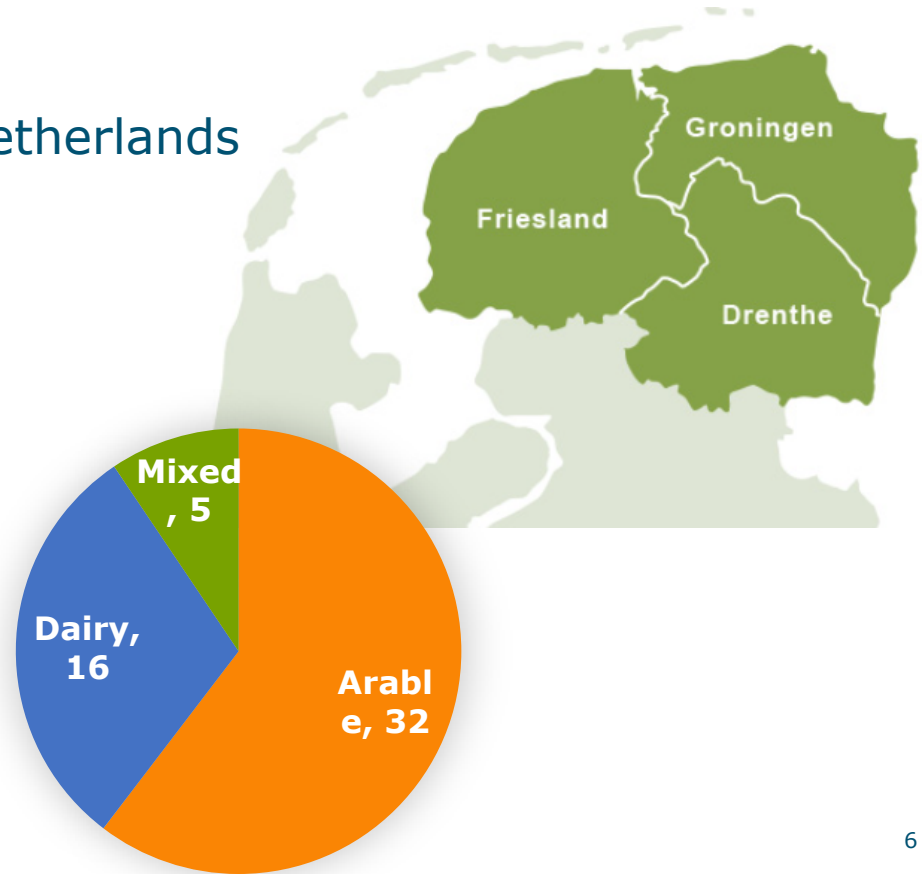
- What is the perspective of young farmers regarding the transition to circular agriculture?

Aim

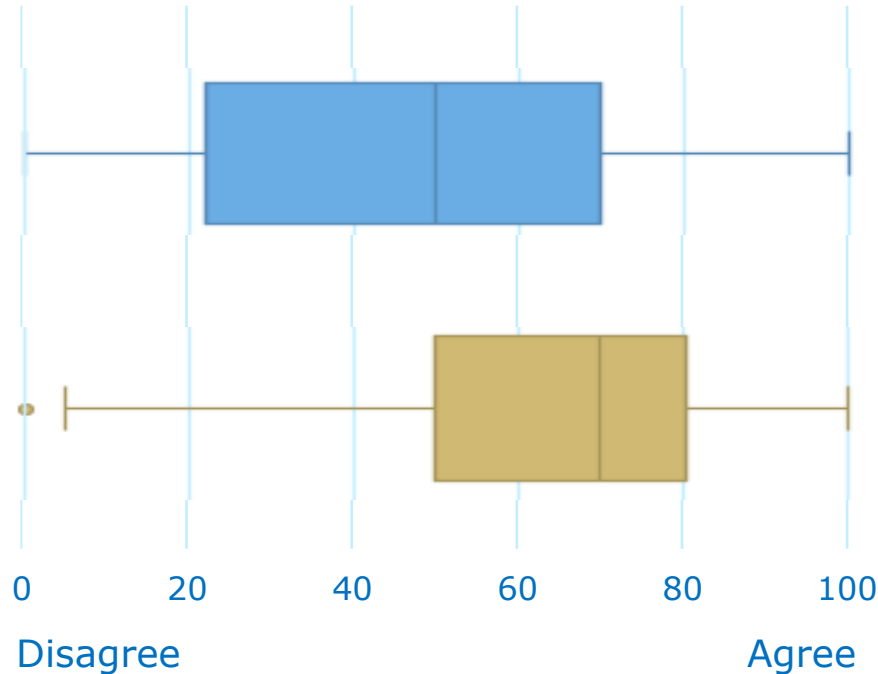
- (1) creating an overview of the young farmers view and definition of circular agriculture
- (2) determine whether young farmers already implement, or are interested in certain circular farm practices
- (3) determine what barriers they experience in the transition towards circular agriculture

Methods

- Case region: the North of the Netherlands
- Maximum age of 35 years old
- Online survey (summer 2021)
 - 53 respondents



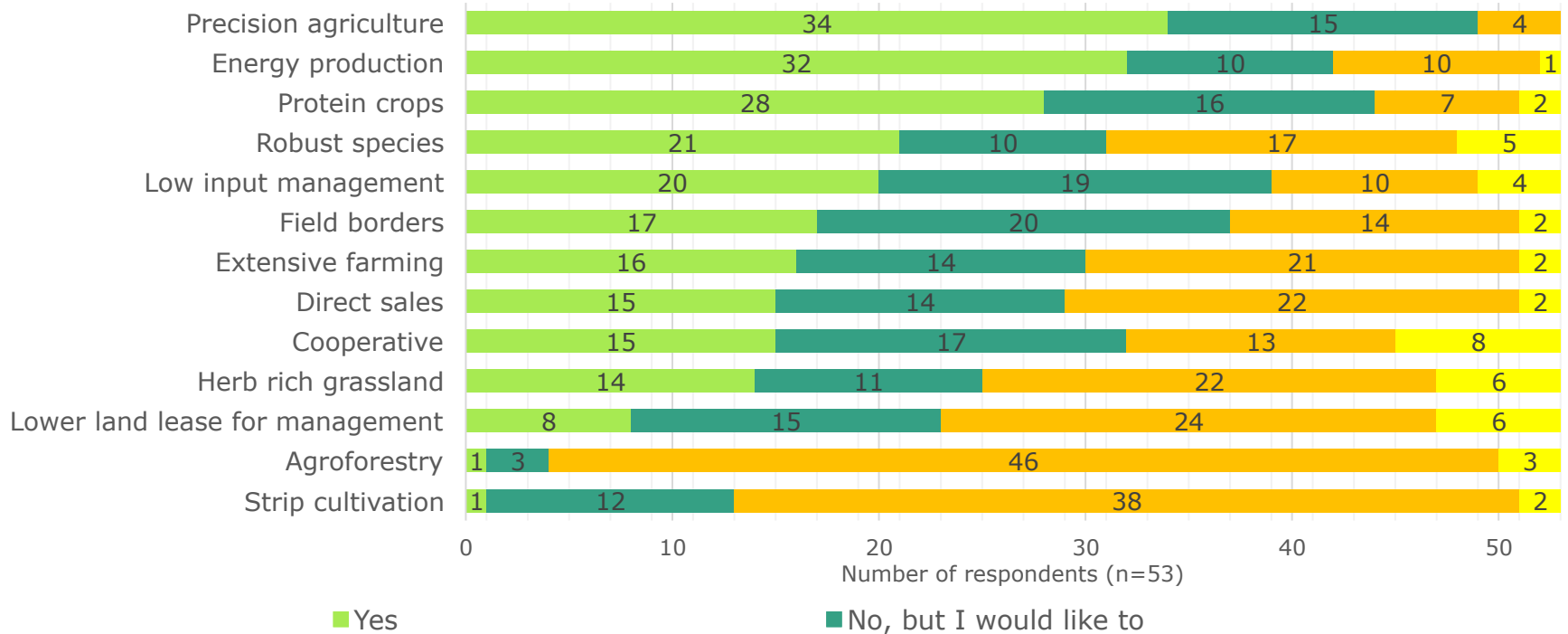
Results - view on circular agriculture



- Circular agriculture offers a solution for agricultural issues in the Netherlands
- Circular agriculture is a type of agriculture that fits the company and myself

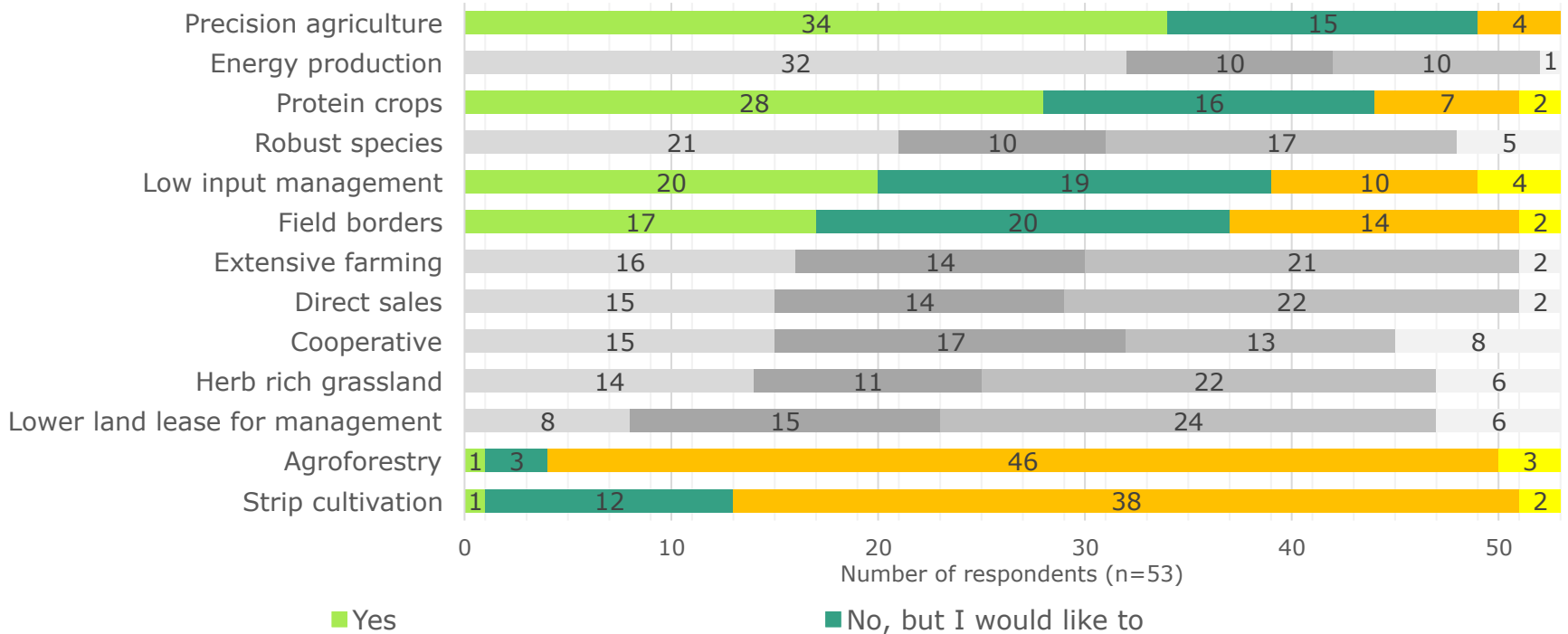
Results – general farm practices

Frequency of application and interest in farm practices



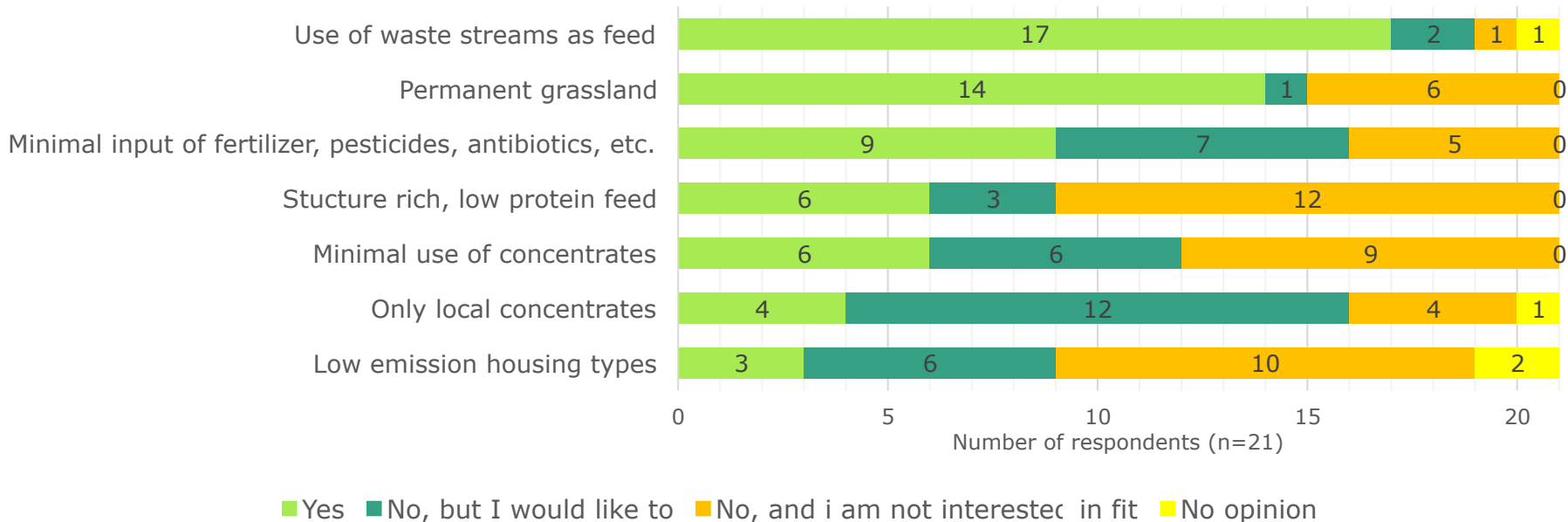
Results – general farm practices

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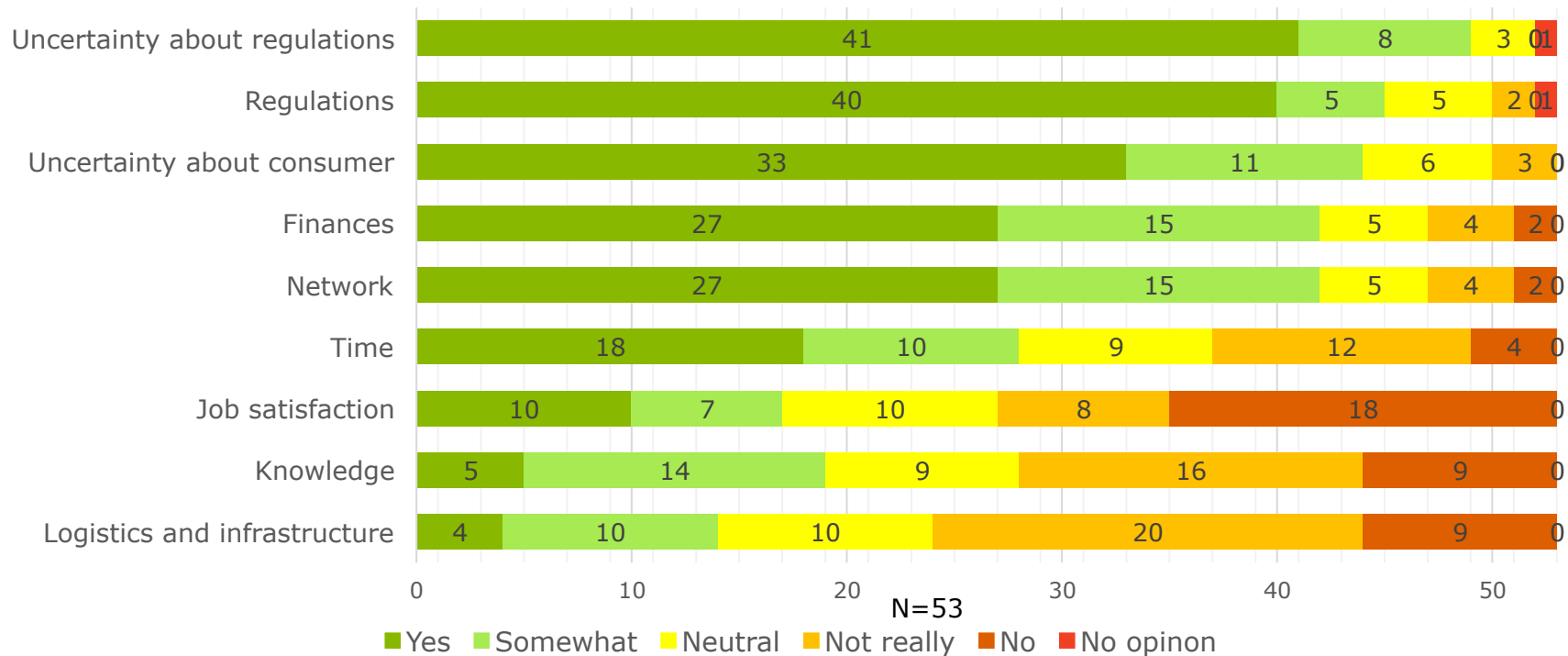


Results – dairy farm practices

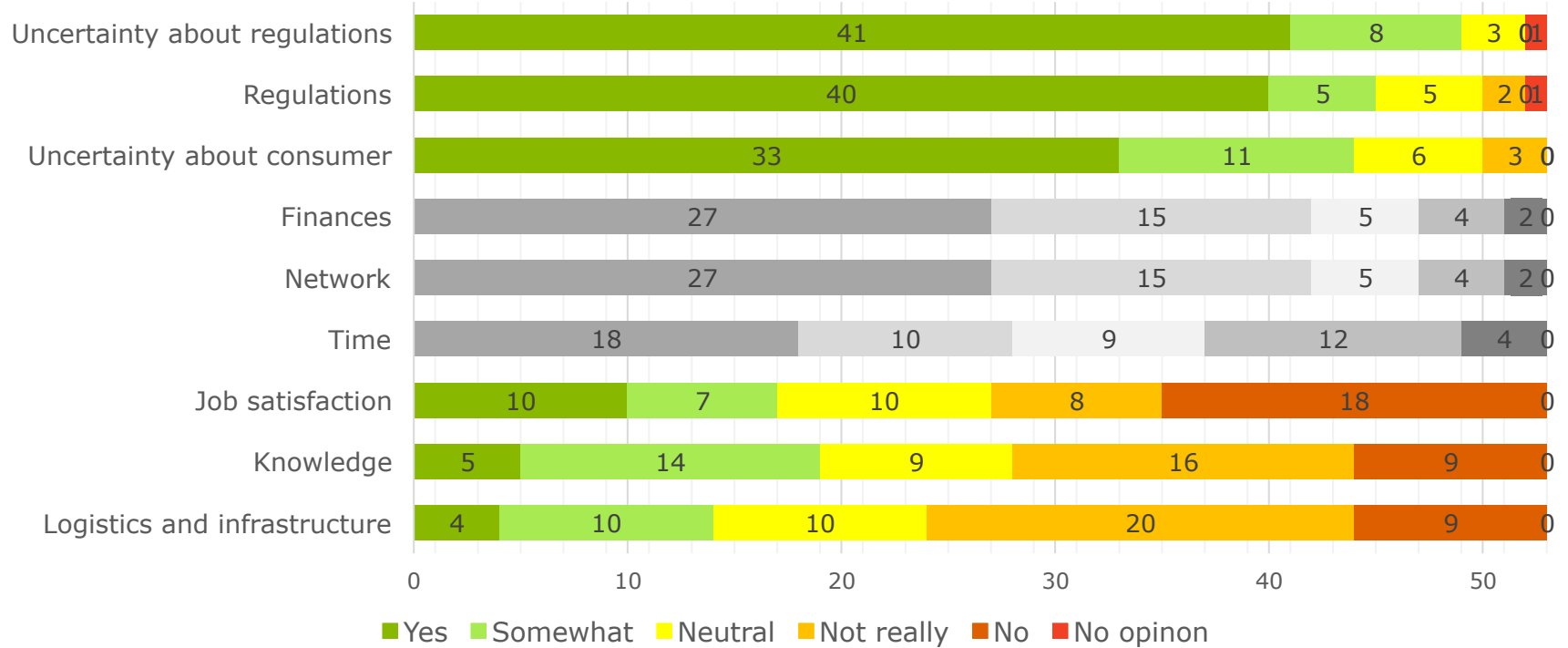
Frequency of application and interest in dairy farm practices



Results - barriers



Results - barriers



Recent developments

- Survey from summer 2021
 - Increased intensity of farmers protest
 - Changed political situation
- > Workshop stakeholders (spring 2023)
- > Focus group/interviews (fall 2023)



Take home message

- Mixed opinions about circular agriculture as a solution
- Many farmers already apply or are interested in circular farm practices
- Quite some experienced barriers, mainly regarding regulations
- Important to offer perspective for young farmers

